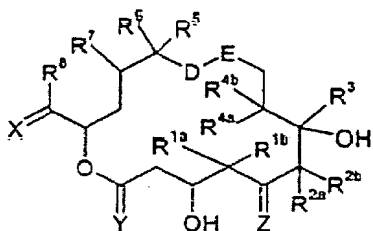


Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An epothilone compound of formula I,



in which

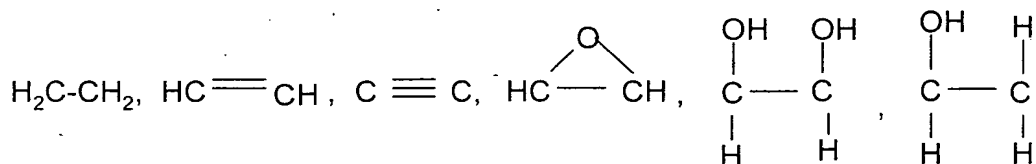
R^{1a} , R^{1b} are the same or different and mean hydrogen, C_1 - C_{10} alkyl, aryl, C_7 - C_{20} aralkyl, or together a $-(CH_2)_m-$ group with $m = 2, 3, 4$ or 5 ,

R^{2a} , R^{2b} are the same or different and mean hydrogen, C_1 - C_{10} alkyl, aryl, C_7 - C_{20} aralkyl or together a $-(CH_2)_n-$ group with $n = 2, 3, 4$ or 5 , whereby, if $-D-E-$ stands for $-CH_2-CH_2-$ or $-O-$ and Y stands for an oxygen atom, at least one of R^{2a} and R^{2b} is not hydrogen or methyl,

R^3 means hydrogen, C_1 - C_{10} alkyl, aryl, C_7 - C_{20} aralkyl,

R^{4a} , R^{4b} are the same or different and mean hydrogen, C_1 - C_{10} alkyl, aryl, C_7 - C_{20} aralkyl or together a $-(CH_2)_p-$ group with $p = 2, 3, 4$ or 5 ,

$D-E$ means a group



R^5 means hydrogen, C_1 - C_{10} alkyl, aryl, C_7 - C_{20} aralkyl,

R^6 , R^7 each mean a hydrogen atom, together an additional bond or an oxygen atom,

R^8 means hydrogen, C_1 - C_{20} alkyl, aryl, C_7 - C_{20} aralkyl, which can all be substituted,

X means an oxygen atom, two alkoxy groups OR^{23} , a C_2-C_{10} alkylene- α,ω -dioxy group, which can be straight-chain or branched, H/OR^9 or a grouping $CR^{10}R^{11}$,

whereby

R^{23} stands for a C_1-C_{20} alkyl radical,

R^9 stands for hydrogen or a protective group PG^x ,

R^{10} , R^{11} are the same or different and stand for:

hydrogen;

a C_1-C_{20} alkyl radical; aryl-

a substituted or unsubstituted phenyl, naphthyl, furyl, thienyl, pyridyl, pyrazolyl,

pyrimidinyl, oxazolyl, pyridazinyl, pyrazinyl, quinolyl or thiazolyl radical; or

a C_7-C_{20} aralkyl radical; or

R^{10} and R^{11} together with the methylene carbon atom together stand for a 5- to 7-membered carbocyclic ring,

Y means an oxygen atom or two hydrogen atoms,

Z means an oxygen atom or H/OR^{12} ,

whereby

R^{12} means hydrogen or a protective group PG^z .

2. (Currently Amended) An epothilone compound of formula I according to claim 1, in which Y, Z, R^{1a} , R^{1b} , R^{2a} and R^{2b} all can have the meanings that are indicated in formula I, and

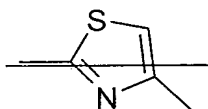
R^3 is H,

one R^{4a} and R^{4b} is H and the other is methyl,

D-E is H_2C-CH_2 ,

X is $CR^{10}R^{11}$

wherein one of R^{10} and R^{11} is H and the other is 2-methyl-4-thiazolyl.



R^5 is H or CH_3 ,

R^6 and R^7 together an O,

and

R^8 is H.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Canceled)

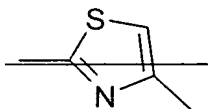
5. (Currently amended) An epothilone compound of formula I according to claim 1, in which Y, Z, R^{1a} , R^{1b} , R^{2a} , R^{2b} , R^3 , R^{4a} , R^{4b} , D-E, R^5 , R^6 and R^7 all ~~ean~~ have the meanings that are indicated in formula I, and

R^8 is H

and

X is $\text{CR}^{10}\text{R}^{11}$

wherein one of R^{10} and R^{11} is H and the other is 2-methyl-4-thiazolyl.



6. (Currently amended) An epothilone compound of formula I according to claim 1, in which Y, Z, R^{1a} , R^{1b} , R^{2a} , R^{2b} , R^6 , R^7 , R^8 and X all ~~ean~~ have the meanings that are indicated in formula I, and

R^3 is H,

one R^{4a} and R^{4b} is H and the other is methyl,

R^5 is H or methyl

and

D-E is $\text{H}_2\text{C}-\text{CH}_2$.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently amended) A compound of formula I, namely

(4S,7R,8S,9S,13(Z),16S(E))-4,8-Dihydroxy-7-ethyl-16-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-1-oxa-5,5,9,13-tetramethyl-cyclohexadec-13-ene-2,6-dione,

(4S,7R,8S,9S,13E,16S(E))-4,8-dihydroxy-7-ethyl-16-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-1-oxa-5,5,9,13-tetramethyl-cyclohexadec-13-ene-2,6-dione (B),

(1S,3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,16R)-7,11-Dihydroxy-3-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-10-ethyl-8,8,12,16-tetramethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5,9-dione ,

(1R,3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,16S)-7,11-dihydroxy-3-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-10-ethyl-8,8,12,16-tetramethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5,9-dione,

(1S,3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,16S)-7,11-Dihydroxy-3-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-10-ethyl-8,8,12,16-tetramethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5,9-dione ,

(1R,3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,16R)-7,11-dihydroxy-3-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-10-ethyl-8,8,12,16-tetramethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5,9-dione,

(4S,7S,8R,9S,13Z,16S(E))-4,8-Dihydroxy-7-ethyl-16-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-1-oxa-5,5,9,13-tetramethyl-cyclohexadec-13-ene-2,6-dione,

(4S,7S,8R,9S,13E,16S(E))-4,8-dihydroxy-7-ethyl-16-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-1-oxa-5,5,9,13-tetramethyl-cyclohexadec-13-ene-2,6-dione,

(1S,3S(E),7S,10S,11R,12S,16R)-7,11-Dihydroxy-3-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-10-ethyl-8,8,12,16-tetramethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5,9-dione,

(1R,3S(E),7S,10S,11R,12S,16S)-7,11-dihydroxy-3-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-10-ethyl-8,8,12,16-tetramethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5,9-dione,

(1S,3S(E),7S,10S,11R,12S,16R)-7,11-Dihydroxy-3-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-10-ethyl-8,8,12,16-tetramethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5,9-dione,

(1R,3S(E),7S,10S,11R,12S,16S)-7,11-dihydroxy-3-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-10-ethyl-8,8,12,16-tetramethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5,9-dione,

~~(4S,7R,8S,9S,13(Z),16S(E))-4,8-Dihydroxy-5,5,7,9,13-pentamethyl-16-((3-pyridyl)ethenyl)-1-oxa-cyclohexadec-13-ene-2,6-dione,~~

~~—————(4S,7R,8S,9S,13E,16S(E))-4,8-dihydroxy-5,5,7,9,13-pentamethyl-16-((3-pyridyl)ethenyl)-1-oxa-cyclohexadec-13-ene-2,6-dione,~~

~~(1S,3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,16R)-7,11-Dihydroxy-8,8,10,12,16-pentamethyl-3-((3-pyridyl)ethenyl)-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5,9-dione,~~

~~—————(1S,3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,16S)-7,11-dihydroxy-8,8,10,12,16-pentamethyl-3-((3-pyridyl)ethenyl)-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5,9-dione,~~

~~—————(4S,7R,8S,9S,13(Z),16S(E))-4,8-Dihydroxy-5,5,7,9,13-pentamethyl-16-((4-pyridyl)ethenyl)-1-oxa-cyclohexadec-13-ene-2,6-dione,~~

~~(4S,7R,8S,9S,13E,16S(E)) 4,8-dihydroxy-5,5,7,9,13-pentamethyl-16-((4-pyridyl)ethenyl)-1-oxa-cyclohexadec-13-ene-2,6-dione,~~

~~(1S,3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,16R) 7,11-Dihydroxy-8,8,10,12,16-pentamethyl-3-((4-pyridyl)ethenyl)-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5,9-dione,~~

~~(1S,3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,16S) 7,11-dihydroxy-8,8,10,12,16-pentamethyl-3-((4-pyridyl)ethenyl)-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5,9-dione,~~

(4S,7R,8S,9S,13(E or Z),16S(E))-4,8-Dihydroxy-16-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-1-oxa-7-phenyl-5,5,9,13-tetramethyl-cyclohexadec-13-ene-2,6-dione,

(1(S or R),3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,16R)-7,11-Dihydroxy-3-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-10-phenyl-8,8,12,16-tetramethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5,9-dione,

(1R or S),3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,16S)-7,11-Dihydroxy-3-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-10-phenyl-8,8,12,16-tetramethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5,9-dione,

(4S,7R,8S,9S,13(E or Z),16S(E))-7-Benzyl-4,8-dihydroxy-16-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-1-oxa-5,5,9,13-tetramethyl-cyclohexadec-13-ene-2,6-dione,

(1(S or R),3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,16R)-10-Benzyl-7,11-dihydroxy-3-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-8,8,12,16-tetramethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5,9-dione,

(1R or S),3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,16S)-10-Benzyl-7,11-dihydroxy-3-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-8,8,10,12,16-tetramethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5,9-dione,

~~(4S,7R,8S,9S,13(E or Z),16S(E))-4,8-Dihydroxy-16-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-1-oxa-5,5,7,13-tetramethyl-9-trifluoromethyl-cyclohexadec-13-ene-2,6-dione,~~

~~—————(1(S or R),3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,16R)-7,11-Dihydroxy-3-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-8,8,10,16-tetramethyl-12-trifluoromethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5,9-dione,~~

~~—————(1R or S),3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,16S)-7,11-Dihydroxy-3-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-8,8,10,16-tetramethyl-12-trifluoromethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5,9-dione,~~

(4S,7R,8S,9S,11E/Z,13(E or Z),16S(E))-4,8-Dihydroxy-16-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-1-oxa-5,5,7,9,13-pentamethyl-cyclohexadec-11,13-diene-2,6-dione,

(1(S or R),3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,14E/Z,16R)-7,11-Dihydroxy-3-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-8,8,10,12,16-pentamethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadec-14-ene-5,9-dione,

(1R or S),3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,14E/Z,16S)-7,11-Dihydroxy-3-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-8,8,10,12,16-pentamethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadec-14-ene-5,9-dione,

(4S,7R,8S,9S,13(E or Z),16S(E))-4,8-Dihydroxy-16-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-1-oxa-5,5,7,9,13-pentamethyl-cyclohexadec-13-ene-11-ene-2,6-dione

(1(S or R),3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,16R)-7,11-Dihydroxy-3-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-8,8,10,12,16-pentamethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadec-14-ine-5,9-dione

(1R or S),3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,16S)-7,11-Dihydroxy-3-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-8,8,10,12,16-pentamethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadec-14-ine-5,9-dione

~~(4S,7R,8S,9S,13(E or Z),16S(E)) 4,8-Dihydroxy-16-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-1-oxa-5,5,7,9-tetramethyl-13-trifluoromethyl-cyclohexadec-13-ene-2,6-dione,~~

~~(1(S or R),3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,16R)-7,11-Dihydroxy-3-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-8,8,10,12-tetramethyl-16-trifluoromethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadeca-5,9-dione,~~

~~(1R or S),3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,16S)-7,11-Dihydroxy-3-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-8,8,10,12-tetramethyl-16-trifluoromethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadeca-5,9-dione,~~

~~(4S,7R,8S,9S,13(E or Z),16S(E)) 4,8-Dihydroxy-16-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-1-oxa-13-pentafluoroethyl-5,5,7,9-tetramethyl-cyclohexadec-13-ene-2,6-dione,~~

~~(1(S or R),3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,16R)-7,11-Dihydroxy-3-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-16-pentafluoroethyl-8,8,10,12-tetramethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadeca-5,9-dione,~~

~~(1R or S),3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,16S)-7,11-Dihydroxy-3-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-16-pentafluoroethyl-8,8,10,12-tetramethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadeca-5,9-dione,~~

~~—————(4S,7R,8S,9S,13(E or Z),16S(E))-4,8-Dihydroxy-16-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-1-oxa-5,5-(1,3-trimethylene)-7,9,13-trimethyl-cyclohexadec-13-ene-2,6-dione,~~

~~—————(1(S or R),3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,16R)-7,11-Dihydroxy-3-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-8,8-(1,3-trimethylene)-10,12,16-trimethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadeca-5,9-dione,~~

~~—————(1R or S),3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,16S)-7,11-Dihydroxy-3-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-8,8-(1,3-trimethylene)-10,12,16-trimethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadeca-5,9-dione,~~

..... (4S,7R,8S,9S,11E/Z,13(E or Z),16S(E))-4,8-Dihydroxy-13-ethyl-16-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-1-oxa-5,5,7,9-tetramethyl-cyclohexadec-11,13-diene-2,6-dione,

(1(S or R),3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,14E/Z,16R)-7,11-Dihydroxy-16-ethyl-3-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-8,8,10,12-tetramethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadec-14-ene-5,9-dione,

(1R or S),3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,14E/Z,16S)-7,11-Dihydroxy-16-ethyl-3-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-8,8,10,12-tetramethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadec-14-ene-5,9-dione,

(4S,7R,8S,9S,11E/Z,13(E or Z),16S(E))-4,8-Dihydroxy-16-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-1-oxa-13-propyl-5,5,7,9-tetramethyl-cyclohexadec-11,13-diene-2,6-dione,

(1(S or R),3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,14E/Z,16R)-7,11-Dihydroxy-3-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-16-propyl-8,8,10,12-tetramethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadec-14-ene-5,9-dione,

(1R or S),3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,14E/Z,16S)-7,11-Dihydroxy-3-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-16-propyl-8,8,10,12-tetramethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadec-14-ene-5,9-dione,

~~(4S,7R,8S,9S,13(E or Z),16S(E)) 4,8-Dihydroxy-16-(1-methyl-2-(2-pyridyl)ethenyl)-1-oxa-5,5,7,9,13-pentamethyl-cyclohexadec-13-ene-2,6-dione,~~

~~—————(1(S or R),3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,16R)-7,11-Dihydroxy-3-(1-methyl-2-(2-pyridyl)ethenyl)-8,8,10,12,16-pentamethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5,9-dione,~~

~~—————(1R or S),3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,16S)-7,11-Dihydroxy-3-(1-methyl-2-(2-pyridyl)ethenyl)-8,8,10,12,16-pentamethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5,9-dione,~~

~~—————(4S,7R,8S,9S,13(E or Z),16S(E)) 4,8-Dihydroxy-16-(1-methyl-2-(4-pyridyl)ethenyl)-1-oxa-5,5,7,9,13-pentamethyl-cyclohexadec-13-ene-2,6-dione,~~

~~—————(1(S or R),3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,16R)-7,11-Dihydroxy-3-(1-methyl-2-(4-pyridyl)ethenyl)-8,8,10,12,16-pentamethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5,9-dione,~~

~~—————(1R or S),3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,16S)-7,11-Dihydroxy-3-(1-methyl-2-(4-pyridyl)ethenyl)-8,8,10,12,16-pentamethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5,9-dione,~~

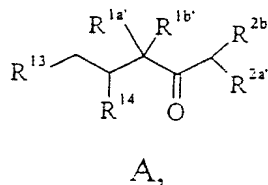
~~(4S,7R,8S,9S,13(E or Z),16S(E)) 4,8-Dihydroxy-16-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-5,5,7,9,13-pentamethyl-cyclohexadec-13-en-6-one,~~

(1(S or R),3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,16R)-7,11-Dihydroxy-3-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-8,8,10,12,16-pentamethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadec-9-one, or

(1R or S),3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,16S)-7,11-Dihydroxy-3-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-8,8,10,12,16-pentamethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadec-9-one.

9. (Currently Amended) A process for the production of an epothilone compound according to claim 1

reacting a fragment of general formula A

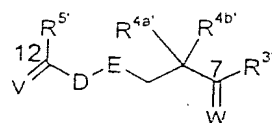


in which

$R^{1a'}$, $R^{1b'}$, $R^{2a'}$ and $R^{2b'}$ have the meanings already mentioned for R^{1a} , R^{1b} , R^{2a} and R^{2b} ,

R^1 means CH_2OR^{13a} , CH_2-Hal , CHO , CO_2R^{13b} , $COHal$,

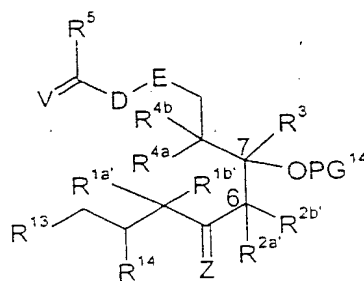
R^1 means hydrogen, OR^{14a} , Hal, OSO_2R^{14b} ,
 R^{13a} , R^{14a} mean hydrogen, SO_2 -alkyl, SO_2 -aryl, SO_2 -aralkyl or together a $-(CH_2)_o$
 group or together a $CR^{15a}R^{15b}$ group,
 R^{13b} , R^{14b} mean hydrogen, C_1 - C_{20} alkyl, aryl, C_1 - C_{20} aralkyl,
 R^{15a} , R^{15b} are the same or different and mean hydrogen, C_1 - C_{10} alkyl, aryl, C_7 - C_{20}
 aralkyl or together a $-(CH_2)_q$ -group,
 Hal means halogen,
 o means 2 to 4,
 q means 3 to 6,
 including all stereoisomers as well as their mixtures, and
 free hydroxyl groups in R^{13} and R^{14} can be etherified or esterified, free carbonyl
 groups can be ketalized in A and R^{13} , converted into an enol ether or reduced, and free
 acid groups in A can be converted into their salts with bases,
 with a fragment of general formula B



B

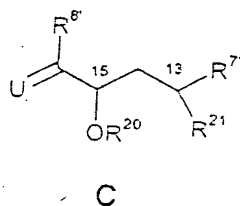
in which

R^3 , R^{4a} , R^{4b} and $R^{5'}$ have the meanings already mentioned for R^3 , R^{4a} , R^{4b} and R^5 ,
 V means an oxygen atom, two alkoxy groups OR^{17} , a C_2 - C_{10} alkylene- α,ω --dioxy
 group, which can be straight-chain or branched or H/OR^{16} ,
 W means an oxygen atom, two alkoxy groups OR^{19} , a C_2 - C_{10} alkylene- α,ω --
 dioxy group, which can be straight-chain or branched or H/OR^{18} ,
 R^{16} , R^{18} , independently of one another, mean hydrogen or a protective group PG^1
 R^{17} , R^{19} , independently of one another, mean C_1 - C_{20} alkyl,
 to form a compound of partial fragment of formula AB



AB,

in which $R^{1a'}$, $R^{1b'}$, $R^{2a'}$, $R^{2b'}$, R^3 , R^{4a} , R^{4b} , R^5 , R^{13} , R^{14} , D, E, V and Z have the meanings already mentioned, and PG^{14} represents a hydrogen atom or a protective group PG, and, reacting this compound of partial fragment AB is reacted with a fragment of general formula C



in which

R^8 has the meaning already mentioned in general formula I for R^8 , and

R^7 means a hydrogen atom,

R^{20} means a hydrogen atom or a protective group PG^2 ,

R^{21} means a hydroxy group, halogen, a protected hydroxy group OPG^3 , a phosphonium halide radical $PPh_3^+Hal^-$ (Ph = phenyl; Hal = F, Cl, Br, I), a phosphonate radical $P(O)(OQ)_2$ (Q = C_1 - C_{10} alkyl or phenyl) or a phosphine oxide radical $P(O)Ph_2$ (Ph = phenyl),

U means an oxygen atom, two alkoxy groups OR^{23} , a C_2 - C_{10} alkylene- α,ω -dioxy group, which can be straight-chain or branched, H/OR^9 or a grouping $CR^{10}R^{11}$,

whereby

R^{23} stands for a C_1 - C_{20} alkyl radical,

R^9 stands for hydrogen or a protective group PG^3 ,

R^{10} , R^{11} are the same or different and stand for:

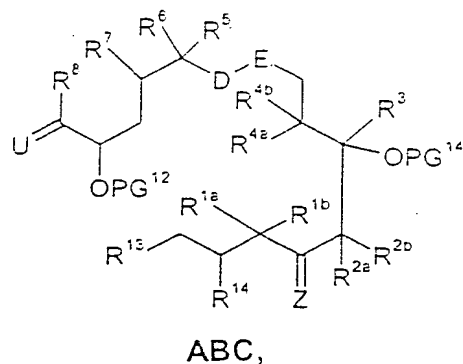
hydrogen;

a C_1 - C_{20} alkyl radical; aryl-

a substituted or unsubstituted phenyl, naphthyl, furyl, thienyl, pyridyl, pyrazolyl, pyrimidinyl, oxazolyl, pyridazinyl, pyrazinyl, quinolyl or thiazolyl radical; or

a C_7 - C_{20} aralkyl radical or

R^{10} and R^{11} together with the methylene carbon atoms together stand for a 5- to 7-membered carbocyclic ring,
to obtain a compound of a partial fragment of formula ABC

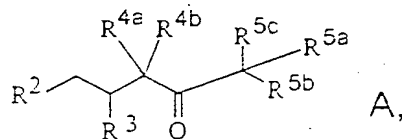


in which R^{1a} , R^{1b} , R^{2a} , R^{2b} , R^3 , R^{4a} , R^{4b} , R^5 , R^6 , R^7 , R^8 , R^{13} , R^{14} , D , E , U and Z have the meanings already mentioned, and this compound of partial fragment of formula ABC is cyclized to an epothilone derivative of general formula I.

10. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of at least one compound of general formula I according to claim 1, as well as a pharmaceutically compatible vehicle.

11. (Currently amended) A method for the production of a pharmaceutical agent comprising mixing a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula I according to claim 1, together with a pharmaceutically compatible vehicle.

12. (Previously Presented) A process for the production of a compound of formula A

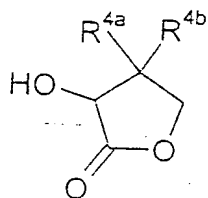


in which

R^2 means CH_2OR^{2a} , CHO , CO_2R^{2b} , COX ,

R^{2a} , R^{2b} mean hydrogen, C_1 - C_{20} alkyl, aryl, C_7 - C_{20} aralkyl,

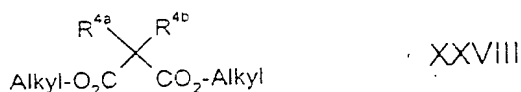
R^3 means hydrogen, OR^{3a} , X, OSO_2R^{3b} ,
 R^{3a} means hydrogen or together with R^{2a} a $-(CH_2)_n-$ group or a $CR^{6a}R^{6B}$
 group,
 R^{3b} means C_1 - C_4 alkyl, aryl,
 X means halogen,
 n means 2 to 4,
 R^{6a} , R^{6b} are the same or different and mean C_1 - C_8 alkyl, C_6 - C_{10} aryl
 or together a $-(CH_2)_o-$ group,
 o means 3 to 6,
 R^{6a} additionally can assume the meaning of hydrogen,
 R^{4a} , R^{4b} are the same or different and mean hydrogen, C_1 - C_{10} alkyl, C_7 - C_{20} aralkyl
 or together a $-(CH_2)_m-$ group,
 m means 2 to 5
 R^{5a} , R^{5b} are the same or different and mean hydrogen, C_1 - C_{10} alkyl, C_7 - C_{20} aralkyl
 or together a $-(CH_2)_p-$ group,
 p means 2 to 5
 R^{5c} means hydrogen,
 including all stereoisomers and mixtures thereof, and
 free hydroxyl groups can be etherified or esterified in R^2 and R^3 , free carbonyl
 groups can be ketalized in A and R^2 , converted into an enol ether or reduced, and free
 acid groups in A can be converted into their salts with bases, wherein
 a) a pantolactone of formula IIa or



II a

in which

- R^{4a} and R^{4b} in each case are methyl groups or
 b) a malonic acid dialkyl ester of formula XXVIII



in which

R^{4a} , R^{4b} , which have the meaning that is indicated in formula A, and alkyl, independently of one another, mean a C_1 - C_{20} alkyl, C_3 - C_{10} cycloalkyl or C_4 - C_{20} alkylcycloalkyl radical, is used as a starting product.

13-30. (Canceled)

31. (Currently amended) A compound of claim 1, in which

R^{2a} , R^{2b} are the same or different and mean hydrogen, C_1 - C_{10} alkyl, aryl, C_7 - C_{20} aralkyl or together a $-(CH_2)_n$ group with $n = 2, 3, 4$ or 5 ,

whereby, if -D-E- stands for - CH_2 - CH_2 - or Y stands for an oxygen atom, then R^{2a} and R^{2b} cannot be hydrogen or C_1 - C_{10} alkyl.

32. (New) A compound which is:

(4S,7R,8S,9S,13(Z),16S(E))-4,8-Dihydroxy-5,5,7,9,13-pentamethyl-16-((3-pyridyl)ethenyl)-1-oxa-cyclohexadec-13-ene-2,6-dione,

(4S,7R,8S,9S,13E,16S(E))-4,8-dihydroxy-5,5,7,9,13-pentamethyl-16-((3-pyridyl)ethenyl)-1-oxa-cyclohexadec-13-ene-2,6-dione,

(1S,3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,16R)-7,11-Dihydroxy-8,8,10,12,16-pentamethyl-3-((3-pyridyl)ethenyl)-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5,9-dione,

(1S,3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,16S)-7,11-dihydroxy-8,8,10,12,16-pentamethyl-3-((3-pyridyl)ethenyl)-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5,9-dione,

(4S,7R,8S,9S,13(Z),16S(E))-4,8-Dihydroxy-5,5,7,9,13-pentamethyl-16-((4-pyridyl)ethenyl)-1-oxa-cyclohexadec-13-ene-2,6-dione,

(4S,7R,8S,9S,13E,16S(E))-4,8-dihydroxy-5,5,7,9,13-pentamethyl-16-((4-pyridyl)ethenyl)-1-oxa-cyclohexadec-13-ene-2,6-dione,

(1S,3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,16R)-7,11-Dihydroxy-8,8,10,12,16-pentamethyl-3-((4-pyridyl)ethenyl)-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5,9-dione,

(1S,3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,16S)-7,11-dihydroxy-8,8,10,12,16-pentamethyl-3-((4-pyridyl)ethenyl)-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5,9-dione,

(4S,7R,8S,9S,13(E or Z),16S(E))-4,8-Dihydroxy-16-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-1-oxa-5,5,7,13-tetramethyl-9-trifluoromethyl-cyclohexadec-13-ene-2,6-dione,

(1(S or R),3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,16R)-7,11-Dihydroxy-3-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-8,8,10,16-tetramethyl-12-trifluoromethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5,9-dione,

(1R or S),3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,16S)-7,11-Dihydroxy-3-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-8,8,10,16-tetramethyl-12-trifluoromethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5,9-dione,

(1R or S),3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,16S)-7,11-Dihydroxy-3-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-8,8,10,12,16-pentamethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadec-14-ene-5,9-dione

(4S,7R,8S,9S,13(E or Z),16S(E))-4,8-Dihydroxy-16-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-1-oxa-5,5,7,9-tetramethyl-13-trifluoromethyl-cyclohexadec-13-ene-2,6-dione,

(1(S or R),3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,16R)-7,11-Dihydroxy-3-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-8,8,10,12-tetramethyl-16-trifluoromethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadeca-5,9-dione,

(1R or S),3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,16S)-7,11-Dihydroxy-3-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-8,8,10,12-tetramethyl-16-trifluoromethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadeca-5,9-dione,

(4S,7R,8S,9S,13(E or Z),16S(E))-4,8-Dihydroxy-16-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-1-oxa-13-pentafluoroethyl-5,5,7,9-tetramethyl-cyclohexadec-13-ene-2,6-dione,

(1(S or R),3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,16R)-7,11-Dihydroxy-3-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-16-pentafluoroethyl-8,8,10,12-tetramethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadeca-5,9-dione,

(1R or S),3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,16S)-7,11-Dihydroxy-3-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-16-pentafluoroethyl-8,8,10,12-tetramethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadeca-5,9-dione,

(4S,7R,8S,9S,13(E or Z),16S(E))-4,8-Dihydroxy-16-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-1-oxa-5,5-(1,3-trimethylene)-7,9,13-trimethyl-cyclohexadec-13-ene-2,6-dione,

(1(S or R),3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,16R)-7,11-Dihydroxy-3-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-8,8-(1,3-trimethylene)-10,12,16-trimethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadeca-5,9-dione,

(1R or S),3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,16S)-7,11-Dihydroxy-3-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-8,8-(1,3-trimethylene)-10,12,16-trimethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadeca-5,9-dione,

(4S,7R,8S,9S,13(E or Z),16S(E))-4,8-Dihydroxy-16-(1-methyl-2-(2-pyridyl)ethenyl)-1-oxa-5,5,7,9,13-pentamethyl-cyclohexadec-13-ene-2,6-dione,

(1(S or R),3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,16R)-7,11-Dihydroxy-3-(1-methyl-2-(2-pyridyl)ethenyl)-8,8,10,12,16-pentamethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5,9-dione,

(1R or S),3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,16S)-7,11-Dihydroxy-3-(1-methyl-2-(2-pyridyl)ethenyl)-8,8,10,12,16-pentamethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5,9-dione,

(4S,7R,8S,9S,13(E or Z),16S(E))-4,8-Dihydroxy-16-(1-methyl-2-(4-pyridyl)ethenyl)-1-oxa-5,5,7,9,13-pentamethyl-cyclohexadec-13-ene-2,6-dione,

(1(S or R),3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,16R)-7,11-Dihydroxy-3-(1-methyl-2-(4-pyridyl)ethenyl)-8,8,10,12,16-pentamethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5,9-dione,

(1R or S),3S(E),7S,10R,11S,12S,16S)-7,11-Dihydroxy-3-(1-methyl-2-(4-pyridyl)ethenyl)-8,8,10,12,16-pentamethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5,9-dione,

or

(4S,7R,8S,9S,13(E or Z),16S(E))-4,8-Dihydroxy-16-(1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-4-thiazolyl)ethenyl)-5,5,7,9,13-pentamethyl-cyclohexadec-13-en-6-one.